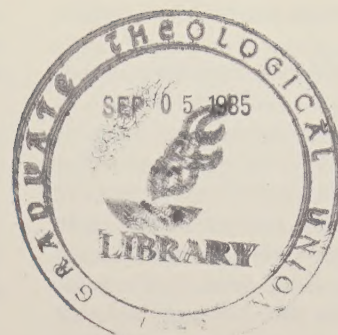




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Leaves of Healing



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Christian Role Models

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

by General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen

Take the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart; may they be right in Your sight, and something of help and blessing for Your purpose in the lives of those who hear or read. We ask humbly in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

It has been said that perhaps the highest form of flattery is when someone else tries to imitate you or uses your life as a model for theirs. I think you would agree when I say that one of the most basic needs in America today is for our young people to have better role models to follow. I think adults need to recognize that it is time to be less critical and better examples of what a godly woman or godly man ought to be. Today, most of our young people are modeling their lives after rock music or television stars or sports leaders, many of whom are desperately lacking in moral and spiritual character. In the past, more of the young people desired to model their lives after their parents, but according to many polls or surveys, that is no longer true. I am reminded of a poem that I found many years ago. It begins with the father speaking to his son:

...ll, what are you going to be, my boy,
when you reach manhood's years?
... doctor, a lawyer or an actor great,
...ving throngs to laughter and tears?
... shook his head as he gave reply in
... serious way that he had.
... don't think I'd care to be any of
... n; I just want to be like my dad.
... wants to be like his dad. You men,

did you ever think as you pause,

That the boy that watches your every
move is building a set of laws?

He's molding a life that you are the
model for, and whether it's good or bad

Depends on the kind of example set to
the boy who would be just like his dad.

Would you have him go everywhere you
go; would you have him do the things
you do,

And see everything your eyes behold
and woo all the gods that you woo?

When you see the worship that shines in
the eyes of your loveable little lad —

Could you rest content if he gets his
wish and grows up to be just like his
dad?

It is a job that none but yourself can fill.
It's a charge that you must answer for.

It's a duty to show him the road to
tread ere he reaches his manhood door.
It's a debt that you owe for the greatest
joy on this old earth to be had:

The pleasure of having a boy to raise
who wants to be just like his dad.

I wonder if this poem speaks to your heart
as it does to mine? What kind of a role
model are we living before our children?

In his letter to the Thessalonians, the
Apostle Paul commends the church for their
example that has encouraged believers in
many other areas of the world. Let us ex-
amine some of the qualities they
manifested.

First, Paul commended them for their
service to Christ and others.

"We give thanks to God always for all
of you, making mention of you in our
prayers; constantly bearing in mind your
work of faith and labor of love and stead-
fastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ
in the presence of our God and Father;"

(I Thess. 1:2, 3)

The first thing that Paul mentioned about
the Christians at Thessalonica was that they
had a working faith. They were a model to
others because of their service. Their faith
was a true faith, producing the fruit of faith,
loving service to others in the Name of the
Lord Jesus Christ. This has not changed,
for whenever a person genuinely gives his
life to the Lord, it is not long before he is
looking for some way to serve Him.

Lest there be some confusion about the
relationship of faith to works, let me em-
phasize the fact that salvation is not the
result of works, but works is the result of
salvation. We are not saved by works but
we are saved to work. Ephesians 2:8, 9 and
10 should help to make this clear:

"For by grace you have been **saved
through faith**; and that not of yourselves,
**it is the gift of God; not as a result of
works**, that no one should boast. For we
are His workmanship, **created in Christ
Jesus for good works**, which God
prepared beforehand, that we should walk
in them."

This is a basic truth taught in all truly
evangelical churches. Yet, there are many
who grow up in these churches and hear
message after message on salvation by
faith, then are taken in by some cult that
teaches salvation by works. It is a sad com-
mentary on those who spend years in a
gospel preaching church, yet are spiritual-
ly ignorant, because they have either never

taken the step of faith into salvation, or have so neglected the personal reading of God's Word that they could be so easily deceived by cult teaching.

I am challenged over and over again by the lives of people in our church who give of themselves in loving service to the Lord and His church. This past week I walked the halls and saw many of our members serving in Vacation Bible School. We thank God for the more than 230 boys and girls who attended, and for those who made commitments to Christ during the week. But this would not have happened without the willing and loving service of some 80 workers who were there prepared to minister to these children. During the summer, we also see many using their vacation time to serve as counselors or cooks or in some other capacity in our camping program at Camp Zion. Truly, there can be no church without people giving themselves in willing service. Are you counted as one of those who serve?

Secondly, the Thessalonians were models in salvation.

"Knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you . . ."

(1 Thess. 1:4)

God chose them for salvation even as all who come to salvation have been chosen by God. This is referred to as "election." We did not choose God, but He chose us.

"Blessed be the God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, . . ."

(Ephesians 1:3, 4)

Over the years there have been discussions and debates and studies for the purpose of understanding the relationship between God's election and man's free will and responsibility in salvation. Often there has been disagreement by an over-emphasis of Scripture on either election or free will.

One day, a member of Charles Spurgeon's congregation asked him how these two sides could be reconciled. His wise answer was, "I never have to reconcile friends." Election and free will are not contradictory, but complimentary truths.

We may not understand the mystery of God's election or what part man's free will plays in salvation, but it is obvious that the Bible teaches both. Man is responsible for his response to the light given him in the knowledge of God — and will be judged for rejecting the light. At the same time, all who are saved have been chosen of God to salvation. What we must not forget is that God is infinite and knows all things from beginning to end. He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart of everyone, and this

knowledge is from eternity, therefore, it is no great thing for Him to elect some to salvation from all eternity.

We can identify with the person who hears the gospel, comes under conviction, repents of his sins and trusts Christ for salvation. Later, in studying his Bible, he finds that God had chosen him before the foundation of the world, and he rejoices in the grace of God.

Thirdly, the Thessalonians were models in suffering. There are different ways in which people suffer. Some kick and scream; others take it patiently. The Thessalonians were joyful in their suffering, following in the footsteps of their Lord and of the Apostle Paul.

"You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit."

(1 Thess. 1:6)

Suffering is a very common and expected experience in many areas of the world, when one places his faith in Christ and identifies himself with the church. In many areas, acknowledging Christ as Saviour and Lord, may mean beatings, imprisonment, estrangement from family, loss of job, persecution by others, and harassment, and even death. Jesus and the Apostles anticipated this and forewarned us, but at the same time encouraged us by the promise of the presence and power of Christ through it all. Jesus said: "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Peter also spoke of Christians suffering for their faith:

"... if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God."

(1 Peter 2:20)

"... if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to every one who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

(1 Peter 3:14, 15)

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

(1 Peter 4:12-14)

We do not seek for trials or tribulation or persecution or suffering, but when it comes as a result of our relationship to the Lord, we can rejoice, knowing that God's grace is sufficient, and that He will work good in it, and be glorified by it.

This was the spirit in which the Thessalonians endured their suffering for Christ, and became models to the believers of all time.

Fourthly, they were models in their witness.

"For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything."

(1 Thess. 1:8)

In spite of their suffering, they were bold in their witness for Christ. How do you account for this? What was their secret? What made their witness so effective that it spread so far so quickly? Could it be that the whole-heartedness with which they turned to the Lord, combined with the persecution that followed, resulting in the great grace and joy of God in their souls so overflowed that their witness demonstrated the supernaturalness of God's working in their midst? We might then ask, "How does that witness differ from my own?" Is my witness from the overflow of the grace and joy of God in my life?

Finally, the Thessalonians were models in their separation.

"For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come."

(1 Thess. 1:9, 10)

This perhaps is the key to their becoming examples to other believers down through the ages: "They turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God." Many others want to have God and their idols too. They want the blessings of the Christian faith without a wholehearted commitment to it. The Thessalonians were willing to turn from everything that was not of God and to put God first in their lives. That made their lives different and their witness effective. The evidence of our Christian faith is not so much our "talk," but our "walk."

When Dr. Dowie founded the Christian Catholic Church in 1896, his three-fold emphasis was on Salvation, Healing, and Holy living. Today, there are those who are proud of our heritage but who refuse to abide by the principles or standards which he proclaimed. For example, Dr. Dowie was a strong opponent to the liquor traffic.

many today would like the church to lower its standards concerning social drinking.

Attending one of the Institutes in Basic Youth Conflicts, I heard Bill Gothard, the leader of those seminars, tell the following story, which I will never forget. Briefly, it is this:

A man had a beautiful daughter who was graduating from high school. He and his wife were very proud of her and had given her every advantage they could in the way of clothes, piano lessons, ballet lessons, etc. They had taken her traveling with them and had provided for her in every way. Seeing her receive her high school diploma, they were justly proud.

Late that evening or early the next morning, they were awakened from sleep by a phone call. Their daughter had been in an automobile accident and was very serious. They rushed to the hospital and upon arrival, learned that their daughter was dead. Others in the car were critically injured. Their daughter had been driving under the influence of alcohol. Alcoholic beverage was also found in the car. They had gone out celebrating, and she was now dead.

The father became very angry. "Where did they get the drinks?" "Who was the person responsible for giving them alcoholic beverages at their age?" Family and friends tried to comfort him.

When the funeral was over and the parents were alone, the dad went to the liquor cabinet to pour himself a drink. There he found a note from his daughter, which said, "Dad, I knew you wouldn't mind my taking a few of your bottles to celebrate with my friends."

I wonder in how many homes of professing Christians this could be repeated. Recently, I was in discussion with a businessman about our city, and he made comment, "Zion has sure changed. Now it is perfectly all right to drink in Zion." I replied, "It may be all right to drink in Zion, but the Church still upholds the Biblical standard on drinking, and it is not a killer and incriminated in crime and break-up of families.

Recently, I had a few minutes to watch television. Twice within that one hour a warning was flashed, "Don't drink and drive." However, shortly after that an interesting beer commercial came on the screen. It was Miller time."

What kind of a role model are you? Do you say or imply, "Do as I say and not as I do"? Have you, like the Thessalonians, turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"? Is Jesus first in your life?

This message is not intended to point the

finger of judgment at any one, but to help you see where you are at, and to recognize the important responsibility as a Christian to be an example to others.

"In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds with purity, soundness of doctrine and dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, . . ."
(Titus 2:7)

Amen. ✦

A FATHER'S PLEDGE

I accept my responsibility in the partnership of parenthood. I count it a joy to share in this wonderful relationship with the mother of our children. I will love her, respect her, and support her in our common task.

I will be sensitive to our children and their special needs. I will seek to uncover their hidden strengths and talents and to encourage their development. I will offer guidance toward pathways of useful service.

More than providing for food, clothing, and shelter, as God gives me strength I will provide a home for the soul, a retreat from rush and conflict and hurt, a place warm with love, security, trust.

I will take time to love, to be a real member of the family, to spend with them those hours which show their importance to me. I will take time to be a true parent.

I will give spiritual leadership to my family, in regular worship periods and daily teaching. I will be a true follower of God myself and lead my family to live for Him, too. In word and deed, I will endeavor always to be an example worth following.

I bow before God in thanksgiving for His grace and in petition of His strength as I make this pledge.

Marietta Church of God
Marietta, GA



I got up early one morning,
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that
I didn't take time to pray.

Problems just tumbled around me,
And heavier came each task,
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

—Author Unknown

Mom and Dad are Getting Divorced

*A little child knelt by his bed
At the close of a long, sad day.
'Dear God,' he sobbed, with heavy heart,
'I don't know how to pray, but —
You see, our home — well, it's all upset;
Guess it's always been that way,
'Cause long as I can remember —
They just fuss and fight all day.*

*'It's Mom and Dad I'm talking about —
But I guess You already know,
'Cause You can see from way up there
The things people do here below.*

*But the thing I want to tell You about,
And the part that worries me so —
Is that Mom and Dad are getting divorced,*

And I don't know where to go!

*I've got to make up my mind
If I want my Dad or my Mother —
And what will become of little Ted?
That's my dear little baby brother.*

*You see, dear God, I love them all —
And I don't know what to do, 'cause
I want my Mom and I want my Dad
And I want baby Teddy, too.*

*I wish You'd talk to Mother and Dad,
Please God, they might listen to You —
They say they're Christians — but I
can't tell*

Because of the things that they do.

But God, I'm sure You'll know what to say —

*And You'll know what to do —
I just hope that I'm not too late
In taking this up with You. Amen!"*

(Matthew 18:6) — Gladys M. Bowman
The Bible Friend, 3/84
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February, 1985
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In Memoriam

Hilda Lilian Mattick, May 23, 1985,
in Zion.
John Emmanuel Swan, May 27, 1985,
in Waukegan
Mark Coopridner, June 4, 1985, in
Winthrop Harbor.
William Spohr, June 8, 1985,
in Zion.
Lawrence Scott, July 8, 1985, in
El Cajon, California.
Elder Maximo Industan, July 3, 1985,
Leyte, Philippines.
Mrs. Paul (Ruth) Mischler, nee
Schwager, July 18, 1985, in Zion.

MISSIONS

For Praise & Prayer

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." III John 8.

Japan

(Excerpts of a letter from
Clark Offner to Pastor Ottersen)

2610-36 Nikenya Obata
Moriyama-ku, Nagoya 463, Japan
June 24, 1985

Dear Roger:

It's a Monday morning, so what am I doing sitting in my study typing a letter? As you might surmise, it is raining outside! That's why! We are in the midst of the rainy season, which is considered a "male" type rainy season this year — which means that there are spells of hard rain interspersed with fair spells rather than the more constant, quieter rains of the "female" type. (In fact, right at this moment, the sun has again come out, but it'll probably be raining hard again in another few minutes.)

Our Takahama Church has scheduled two days of special meetings on July 20-21. Rev. Hisashi Kajiwaru, the president of the church-related Nagoya Gakuin University, who also preached at the Church Dedication in April of last year and once again while I was in the U.S. last summer, will be the speaker. We have scheduled a Saturday evening meeting and he will preach at the Sunday morning and evening services. We will be having announcements printed and distributed by church members as well as having hand-made posters displayed around the city and postcards sent to people who have attended any past meetings. Following the Worship Service on July 7, those who can will be staying at the church to help in these promotional activities. We are also planning to have a Sunday afternoon "retreat" time at the church on the day of the special meetings and then have our regular "summer retreat" in a scenic mountain area in October.

We have been happy with the response to the afternoon house meetings we hold twice a month in the home of the Sumiyas, who live in Higashiura, just across the little bay from Takahama. I will be going there again on Thursday. Usually, nine or ten are in attendance. I am speaking now on Jesus' parables.

On Sunday, since it is a 5th Sunday of the month, we will hold another meeting of listeners to the "Daily Word" telephone

messages at the Y.W.C.A. in the afternoon. At the July meeting of the Religion/Culture Discussion Group, we will review our purpose, method and consider future plans.

Since returning from the Philippines, I have spoken to a group at the Y.W.C.A. regarding that trip (showing slides), to the Green Club, made up of retired men and women, on inter-cultural communication, and to the International Association for Preschool Education, made up of university professors of education along with teachers and staff workers in kindergartens from around the country, on "Japanese Education As Seen By A Foreigner." Although such talks and lectures are not directly related to Christian themes, I always try to give a Christian witness in the process of my talk.

Barb is enjoying her vacation, although she has also been keeping busy helping out at Mark and Ikuyo's since Ikuyo must continue to be careful following her two month hospitalization. She was released after being "sewed up" to keep the baby from making a premature appearance — scheduled for August. Sue has become re-acclimated to Japanese life and is now settled in her Japanese-style apartment with its tiny garden, in which she is raising some vegetables. She is enjoying the bike she recently acquired. We try to have a weekly dinner together as a family.

We are planning to spend a couple of weeks at Lake Nojiri the end of July/beginning of August, during which the annual conference of the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries will be held. (I am on the planning committee for that conference.)

We pray the Lord's blessing upon you all and will be looking forward to your report of your Asian/Australian trip.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Clark B. Offner

Japan

(Letter to Earl Minton,
dated July 6, 1985)

A couple of days ago, I presented a "Hymn Player" to the Kariya Church, which I bought with the "farewell gift" of money given to us 10 years ago by the con-

gregation there when we returned on our last one-year furlough, which I had deposited in a postal savings account that has just matured. (The fellowship at that time may have thought that we might not return since we had installed a Japanese pastor to take over the church.)

This "Hymn Player" is a machine a bit larger, but lighter, than a large hymnbook. It must be hooked up to an amplifier and speaker (a radio-cassette will do). By pressing the numbered buttons, the machine will produce the accompaniment by piano, reed organ or pipe organ for all of the 800 plus hymns in two of the most widely used Japanese hymnals at the designated tempo. The Kariya Church is now without an accomplished organist, so it will be useful to them. I purchased one for the Takahama Church before going to the Philippines and we use it for the Evening Service as well as for the fortnightly home meetings in Higashiura.

If possible, we hope to be able to stop at the missionary conference held in Karuizawa to hear a talk by Dave Hesselgrave (now at Trinity, formerly a missionary in Japan), on our way to Lake Nojiri. It would mean driving through the night to get there in time. We'll see.

Barb and Sue were at a cookout at the home of an American friend with other American friends on July 4th. Being a Thursday, I was at Takahama all day. We are hoping that our first grandchild is born following our return from Lake Nojiri rather than while we are gone.

Praying the Lord's blessing upon you all

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Clark Offner

(Newsletter from Jo Gittings)

Last night as I was visiting with Urm Jacuub, her eyes began to fill with tears. Since she broke her leg the day before Easter she has had to wear a cast from knee to toe. Three days ago she went back into the hospital to have her cast replaced. She was very miserable not to be able to walk and get around. The Lord brought to my mind the scripture I had read the day before: II Corinthians 1:1-7 - "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God

from whom all help comes! He helps us in our troubles so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, with the same help that we ourselves have received from God . . ." (GNB).

I found the place in the Arabic Bible and in Jacub read it out loud. After reading she said that God gives us strength and help in all our troubles. I agreed, and added that after He helps us, then we can help others. This seemed to really touch her. I think it was especially meaningful to us as I sat next to her, her leg in a cast elevated on a pillow, and me propped in a chair with pillows; my neck in a cervical collar (for a damaged disc in my neck). I experienced the help I was sharing with her! Truly, this scripture was timely! How the Lord is in every day experiences; how living, active and appropriate is the word of God!

As I look back on the almost 18 months I have been in Jordan, I thank God for the opportunity He has given me to study Arabic. I've had real opportunities for growth and have seen the Lord working in real and miraculous ways in my life. I've learned a lot about hospitality and graciousness from the Jordanian people. So, I've studied the "how to's" in language learning. I won't say I've "learned" Arabic, for that is my life-long task. I'm looking forward now to going to Abu Dhabi to begin the work of adjusting to a different way of life and a new dialect. After July 21st, I will be taking a ten-day break between language school and work. Then we will be traveling to the Gulf on July 30th.

I praise the Lord for:

Opportunities to share with others through Arabic school;

Opportunities to visit and know and love Arab friends;

Opportunities to meet fellow-workers from different countries and church backgrounds who are working in Arab speaking areas;

I am thankful for my roommates Sonia and Dale, whose love, encouragement, exhortation and helpfulness has built me up in my faith in God. Sonia will be staying here to help out in a local church-related office, and Dale is looking into Bible school and returning to this part of the world as part of a team of Christians.

Please pray with me for:

1) A quick and complete healing of my knee problem. I thank God I am not in severe pain, but am limited in my activity.
2) Details of moving to U.A.E. and beginning life and work there. There is a severe nursing shortage this summer.
Thank you so much for your love and prayers and faithful giving. Although many of you have sent letters and cards recently,

it may be some time before I am able to answer them personally. Thank you for being patient.

Much love,
In His service,
Jo Gittings
P.O. Box 1016
Oasis Hospital
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi
U.A.E.

(NOTE) It is best not to use "Zion" as a return address because of the confusion with the Zion or Zionist place or organization in Israel.

Australia

On April 28, 1985, Rev. Don Prout was officially inducted into the pastorate of the Surrey Hills Christian Catholic Church by General Overseer Roger Ottersen and assisted by Overseer Noel Smith and Overseer Leland Barton, retired. It is with joy that we welcome Pastor Prout, his wife, Barbara, daughter Susannah, and sons Johnathan and Cameron. We pray for God's blessing on his life, his family, and his ministry.

Pastor Prout received his theological training at the Kingsley College and pastored the Collingwood Christian Chapel from 1975-1984. He is also a regular columnist for the New Life weekly publication in Australia and is the author of two books. He also serves with the "Walk Thru the Bible" ministries, conducting all-day seminars on the Old or New Testament in various churches throughout Victoria.

Pastor Prout is a long time friend of the Christian Catholic Churches in Australia, so when Overseer Noel Smith was seeking a replacement upon his own retirement as full-time pastor, God led to the consideration of Rev. Prout, who also had been prepared by the Lord to step into that responsibility.

A Message to Each Choir Member

Dear Choir Member,

We appreciate you and thank you:

For your FAITHFULNESS in attendance;

For your LEADERSHIP in congregational singing that unifies the spirit of worship;

For your ANTHEMS that lift the soul;

Australia

Overseer Noel Smith Retires from Full-time Ministry



For all of his adult life, Overseer Noel Smith has served the Christian Catholic Church in Australia, first in a lay capacity, then, upon the retirement of Overseer Stanley Smith, as Elder. In 1972, Elder Smith was invited to assume the pastorate at Phoenix, which he did, serving from June, 1972 to October, 1974. Upon his return to Australia, he pastored the Surrey Hills Church. Then, in October, 1979, while attending the Annual Convocation in Zion, with his wife, Verna, he was appointed as the Overseer in Charge of the Christian Catholic Churches in Australia.

The dedication and faithful ministry of both Noel and Verna Smith have been a great inspiration to us all. We are grateful and Pastor Don Prout is grateful that God is giving strength to Overseer Smith to continue serving the church in a lesser capacity, while also maintaining the general oversight of the congregations of Surrey Hills and Mt. Evelyn as Overseer in Charge.

We praise the Lord for Noel's many years of faithful service, along with his wife, Verna, and pray for many more.

For your ATTITUDE OF REVERENCE that embodies the spirit of worship;

For your JOY IN PARTICIPATION that is contagious; and

For your DESIRE TO IMPROVE and your faithfulness to rehearsals.

May God richly bless you,
The Church Members and Attenders

A Report of the General Overseer's Trip to Japan, Philippines and Australia

"Out of sight — out of mind" is the way many feel when there is not sufficient contact between the Christian Catholic Church headquarters and its related churches and missions. To demonstrate that we really care and have not "abandoned" them, missionary trips or contacts from them to us or us to them is of vital importance. Our goal is for someone from headquarters to visit each area about once every three years, or oftener where possible.

The invitation to attend the Philippine National Conference, at which time officers would be elected, and the invitation to install a new pastor of the church in Australia was the special prompting for General Overseer Roger Ottersen to visit Japan, the Philippines and Australia during April and early May of this year.

Arriving in Nagoya on Thursday, April 11th, Overseer Ottersen was on hand for the First Anniversary Service of the Takahama new church building dedication. The building itself is very impressive with its well lit sanctuary, foyer, Sunday school classrooms, and washrooms on the first floor, and a fellowship room, classrooms and office area on the second floor.

A group of junior-high schoolers sang for the morning Worship Service. They had learned the song in English for the Overseer's visit. Clark Offner interpreted for Ov. Ottersen's message from the Word as well as his commendation to the congregation on completing their building debt-free.

Following the service was a fellowship time and typical Japanese dinner, during which various ones expressed greetings on behalf of the church fellowship. Pastor Tomita of the Kariya congregation had prepared his greeting in English and read it to the Overseer on behalf of his congregation.

Overseer Offner is presently seeking a Japanese pastor for the Takahama Church to free him for church planting in another nearby community.

With respect to the many decisions that might be made concerning the work in the Philippines, it had been planned that Ov. Offner accompany Ov. Ottersen for that part of his trip. Arriving in Manila on April 15th, they were met by a delegation of pastors and representatives of the Philippine Christian Catholic Churches, and were put up at the Far East Broadcasting Company Guest House.

The following evening, Pastor Ottersen spoke at one of the newest congregations in the Metro Manila area. This congregation meets on the third floor of an office building and has an exciting new program. The meeting room was filled to capacity and a great time of spiritual fellowship and worship was experienced.

Originally scheduled for Mindanao, the National Conference venue was changed to Meyto for security reasons. Meyto is one of the newer churches, about 30 miles from Manila, and is pastored by Rev. Bert Dizon with Rev. Ellie Mercado as missionary pastor. The Meyto Church is, I believe, our largest church in the Philippines (building-wise), and about four miles away is a private school with dormitory facilities, run by members of the church. Together, they were well suited for housing the National Conference delegates and for the meetings.

An important part of the agenda for this National Conference Meeting was the election of two officers, the appointment of two more officers by the Elder-in-Charge, and the appointment of the Elder-in-Charge, as Pat Hermosilla's second four-year term had come to an end.

The appointment of the Elder-in-Charge is made by Overseer Ottersen after consultation with the leadership there. On the basis of their recommendations, Pat Hermosilla was appointed for a third four-year term. Those elected to the National Council were Reverends Bert Dizon and Ellie Mercado. Those appointed by Elder Pat Hermosilla were Rev. Nestor Ugsad, the General Supervisor of the churches in Mindanao, and Rev. Jerry dela Pena, District Supervisor of the churches in Leyte.

Both Ov. Offner and Ov. Ottersen had opportunity to address the delegates to the National Conference as well as to enjoy fellowship with both pastors and lay delegates. Our work in the Philippines has now grown to 55 congregations, making it second only to South Africa in the numbers of congregations affiliated with us.

Following the conference, Ov. Ottersen was able to speak at one of the newest congregations, the Heights Christian Catholic Church in Bulacan, a little north of Manila. On the final Sunday of his visit, Ov. Ottersen visited and spoke at the Caloocan Christian Catholic Church. Despite enlarging their building to the limits of the lot size, the congregation has to rotate in service at-

tendance, some coming in the morning and others in the evening, with several Sunday school sessions during the day. This congregation has also been instrumental in establishing other congregations, such as Meyto, and are presently helping to sponsor a new work at San Juan, near Meyto.

Though the time spent in the Philippines was relatively brief, both Ov. Ottersen and Ov. Offner felt the time was well spent and that God had guided and blessed their ministry and the events and decisions concerning the National Council and the future of the work in the Philippines. They found a warm reception by the ministers and members, and in their leaving, they felt they were leaving a part of their heart in the Philippines.

On April 25th, Ov. Ottersen arrived in Melbourne and was joined by two couples from the headquarters church in Zion: Austin and Edith Hens and Bill and Nedra Gaddis. They were met by Overseer and Mrs. Noel Smith, Rev. Don Prout, and other members of the fellowship in Australia. The next day was spent in personal conferences, including a lengthy meeting with Rev. Don Prout, the new pastor appointee for the church. That evening, Ov. Ottersen met with the officers and trustees of the fellowships for discussion of their concerns, hopes and aspirations.

The official induction of Don Prout took place on Sunday afternoon, April 28th, at 3:00 p.m., thus giving opportunity for ministers and friends from other churches to attend and bring greetings and a welcome. Rev. Prout will both pastor the Surrey Hills Church and visit, on a regular schedule, the Mt. Evelyn Church.

It is difficult to put into words the emotional feelings of joy, commitment, enthusiasm and hope at that afternoon Service. One just sensed the presence of the Lord and His blessing on this event. A fellowship tea added that beautiful touch to a thrilling afternoon.

A few days of sightseeing were enjoyed in the middle of the week by those visiting from Zion, as well as by Overseer and Mrs. Leland Barton, who were spending their vacation in Australia at that time.

On Saturday, May 4th, both congregations met for a picnic at the beautiful Melbourne park at Winnekie Dam. It was also an informal "get acquainted" time with members of both congregations and a opportunity for questions and answers be-

members of the congregation and Ottersen.

The Sunday morning of May 5th was at the Mt. Evelyn Church where John McKenzie is pastor. Following services, the entire congregation met at McKenzie's home for a delicious carry-over. Ov. Ottersen then returned in for the Vesper Service at Surrey Hills. All too soon, the time came to say good-bye." As with Japan and the Philippines, and wherever one shares in the fellowship and work of Jesus Christ, there is part of you which is left behind. So Ov. Ottersen and those with him felt in leaving Australia.

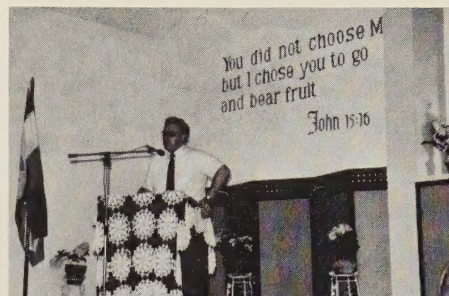
As the ministry had been intensive in an area that Ov. Ottersen had visited, it was good and refreshing to spend a few days in Honolulu before returning to a backlog of work in Zion.

We wish to express our gratitude to you and to all who remembered us faithfully in prayer, for the safety in travel — by air and in heavy traffic on land. We thank you for all He accomplished through us. We continue in prayer for one another and for our churches and missions around the world."

Pastor Ottersen



Christian Catholic Church of Pangyan, Lupon, Davao Oriental Nicanor Tulo, Pastor.



General Overseer Ottersen speaking at the opening conference of the Philippines National Conference 1985—at Meyto.



Outside front view of the Takahama Christian Catholic Church.



Board of the Christian Catholic Church in Takahama, Japan with Overseer Clark Offner (center).



Jr. High School students at the Takahama, Japan Christian Catholic Church who sang on April 14th for the first anniversary of the church dedication.



Pastor & Mrs. Donald Prout, installed as Pastor of Christian Catholic Church in Australia, April 28, 1985.



Calumpit, Bulacan, Philippines
West building of the Christian Catholic Church in Philippines.

His congregation is now in the process of building a new building for the pastor and family—Rev. Ellie Mercado (last on far right).



Pastoral Staff of Caloocan Christian Catholic Church in Metro Manila (left to right) Rev. Victor Casabal, associate pastor, Rev. Pat Hermosilla, pastor; and Tony Pionso, seminary student, assistant.



Entrance to 3rd floor Fellowship Center. Newest work of the Christian Catholic Church in Metro Manila.



Hagonoy, Bulacan, Philippines
New branch ministry of the Christian Catholic Church near Meyto—now meeting in the school where daily sessions of 1985 Conference were held.



Newly enlarged and remodeled Caloocan Christian Catholic Church in Metro Manila.



Congregation of the Caloocan Christian Catholic Church April 21, 1985.

In Memoriam

Maximo Industan, the first Elder in Charge of the Christian Catholic Churches in the Philippines died on July 3rd, and was laid to rest in the church yard near the orphanage on July 10th, with Rev. Pat Hermosilla, officiating. The Christian Catholic Church began in the Philippines at the close of World War II as an orphanage to care for the many children whose parents had been killed in the War. This led to the beginning of the New Zion Academy for the education of the orphans and others in the community, and as many of the students who had come through the orphanage and Academy desired to serve the Lord, this then led to the founding of some of our present churches.

Maximo Industan was a man of faith and faithfulness and has now "entered into the joy of his Lord." Let us continue to pray for Mrs. Industan and those associated with her at the orphanage.



Opening day of National Conference (left to right) Overseer Clark Offner; General Overseer Ottersen; Rev. Pat Hermosilla, Elder-in-Charge of Philippine Christian Catholic Church.



Rev. & Mrs. (Ester) Pat Hermosilla, Elder-in-Charge of Christian Catholic Church of the Philippines.



Choir at the Meyto Christian Catholic Church.



Rev. & Mrs. Ellie Mercado and 5 month old son.

Camp Zion

We are also experiencing one of our best years in the ministry at Camp Zion, very possibly due to the increased prayer support by our people. Each period has seen the blessing of God, with a number of campers coming to know Christ personally, or experiencing definite spiritual growth and commitment. As we have prayed, so have we rejoiced in seeing God's answers in changed lives. We especially praise God for His working in the lives of many of our high school young people as peer pressure to evil is so strong at that age.

Construction of our new all-purpose building is also progressing nicely.

News In Brief

On May 25th, Pastor Hugh Mainord was united in marriage to Ione Koppen, in a beautiful ceremony officiated by Pastors Roger Ottersen and Earl Minton. Pastor Mainord has filled an important place on our staff since January of 1980, serving as Director of Christian Education and Outreach, Marriage Counselor, and minister to those in the hospital. Ione, who had worked at Zion State Bank for thirty-five years, was asked to come on staff in April of 1984, as Director of our record keeping department. They will move into their new home—presently under construction—at 2413 Lydia about September 1st.

We congratulate them and wish them the riches of God's blessing together.



Zion's 85th Annual Convocation

September 29 - October 6, 1985
Theme: "His Last Command...
Our First Concern"

